

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 07686 151919Z

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8821

INFO AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

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AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

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AMCONSUL NICE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, FR

SUBJECT: NEW DEPARTURES IN THE FRENCH FAR LEFT PRESS

SUMMARY. FAR LEFT PRESS IN FRANCE, TRADITIONALLY REPRESENTED AMONG DAILIES BY "LIBERATION", NOW SHOWS, WITH BEGINNING OF PUBLICATION MARCH 15 OF THE TROTSKYITE "ROUGE", THREE DAILIES AND SEVERAL WEEKLIES. WHILE THEIR FINANCING IS UNCLEAR, THE DAILIES REPRESENT A CONSIDERABLE IMPACT IN FACTORIES, PLACES OF BUSINESS AND ON THE STREET. MEANWHILE, FRENCH SOCIALIST (PS) PLANS TO BEGIN A DAILY APPEAR STALLED. END SUMMARY.

1. THE TROTSKYITES: FOLLOWING THREE YEARS OF WEEKLY PUBLICATION, THE TROTSKYITE WEEKLY "ROUGE" (RED) BECAME, ON MARCH 15, A DAILY. CLOSELY LINKED TO THE COMMUNIST REVOLUTIONARY LEAGUE (LCR) OF FORMER (1974) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ALAIN KRIVINE AND TO THE LUTTE OUVRIERE (LO) OF ARLETTE LAGUILLER, ALSO A PRESIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 PARIS 07686 151919Z

CANDIDATE IN 1974, "ROUGE" CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE AS

CRITICAL OF THE UNITED LEFT AS IT IS OF GISCARD'S MAJORITY. FINANCING FOR THE NEWSPAPER, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO HAVE AN INITIAL CIRCULATION OF ABOUT 65,000, IS UNCLEAR, BUT MAIN SOURCES OF DECLARED INCOME WILL PROBABLY INCLUDE

DIRECT FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE LCR, THE LO AND THE UNIFIED SOCIALIST PARTY (PSU) AND SUBSCRIPTIONS (LO AND LCR CELLS HAVE BEEN WORKING HARD WITH SOME SUCCESS IN NORTHERN PARIS SUBURBS).

2. THE MAOISTS: THE "QUOTIDIEN DU PEUPLE" (PEOPLE'S DAILY), ABOUT TO ENTER ITS SECOND YEAR OF DAILY PUBLICATION, HAS JUST MOVED TO A 12-PAGE (RATHER THAN 8) FORMAT. ESTIMATED TO HAVE ABOUT 15,000 CIRCULATION, THE QUOTIDIEN HAS FOCUSED ON PRACTICAL PROBLEMS RATHER THAN IDEOLOGY. ITS BEST-RECEIVED CAMPAIGN CAME LAST FALL THROUGH A HARD-DRIVING SERIES OF ARTICLES ON WORKER SAFETY AND JOB-RELATED INJURIES. ITS SOURCES OF FINANCING ARE UNKNOWN.

3. "LIBERATION": FRANCE'S OLDEST FAR LEFT DAILY, LIBERATION, CURRENTLY CIRCULATES SOME 35,000 COPIES DAILY. GENERALLY ORIENTED TOWARDS "PEOPLE PROBLEMS", LIBERATION COMES CLOSEST OF THE THREE FAR LEFT DAILIES, TO AN AMERICAN UNDERGROUND NEWSPAPER. ITS COLUMNS REFLECT A LIBERTARIAN, ANTI-AUTHORITY LINE WHICH OCCASIONALLY ALLOWS FOR A GOOD WORD FOR THE PS. LIBERATION, AT LEAST PUBLICLY, IS TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON ITS SALES (AND ON THE SALES OF ITS SATIRIC CALENDAR) FOR FINANCING. IT RECENTLY RECEIVED ATTENTION FOR ITS ARTICLES ON THE CIA AND ALLEGED LIST OF CIA PERSONNEL IN FRANCE.

4. THE CONSPIRACY THEORIES: A FEW JOURNALISTS AND SOME KNOWLEDGEABLE PS SOURCES BELIEVE THAT BOTH QUOTIDIEN AND ROUGE ARE RECEIVING SOME FUNDING FROM THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. ACCORDING TO THIS THEORY THE MINISTRY FINDS IT CONVENIENT TO PUT THE UNITED LEFT UNDER ATTACK FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM, AND FINDS IT EQUALLY USEFUL TO HAVE ACCESS TO THESE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 PARIS 07686 151919Z

DAILIES' SUBSCRIPTION LISTS. ON THE OTHER HAND, AT LEAST TWO COMMUNIST JOURNALISTS HAVE SAID THAT THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL "MIDDLE EASTERN MONEY" BEHIND THE TWO DAILIES, AND HAVE POINTED TO QUOTIDIEN'S RECENT SERIES OF INTERVIEWS WITH PALESTINIAN LEADERS TO WHOM ACCESS IS USUALLY LIMITED, AS GOOD CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE. RUSH

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